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pied land on the north of the Kallada river. The Chief Engineer has therefore been asked to survey the new line, if he had not gone too far with the survey of the Avanceswaram—Kalayapuram road. In any case, the road from Kunnikode to Anchal should be done, before any other road is attempted in the taluk.

82. The means of communication in the Shertallai taluk.

Mr. Kumaran Kochu Padmanabha Pillai (Member, Shertallai taluk) said that the construction of a canal sanctioned for the Shertallai taluk was not yet begun. He understood that there was a proposal to substitute a road from Shertallai to Alleppey for the said canal. On being informed by the Dewan that a canal and not a road was to be constructed, he requested that a few existing canals such as the Madayan thodu, Mannancherry thodu, Mulpiri thodu and Kalla thodu, connecting the proposed canal with the Vembanad lake, be deepened in the interests of agriculture and traffic, and also that the village road from Thanneermukkam to Alleppey be converted into a cart road. Replying to the Dewan, the Member said that the people of the taluk had been asking for the road from the very beginning and they would prefer it to a canal if they had the choice.

Mr. Devan Krishnan Karthavu (Member, Shertallai taluk) said that the canal now sanctioned would not benefit the northern *pakuthies* of the Shertallai taluk. He requested therefore that the existing road from the Shertallai Cutcherry landing to Thanneermukkam through the market be improved and made cartable and that a new road from Shertallai to Arur be also constructed. In reply to the query from the Dewan, the Member said that he would prefer a road from Shertallai to Alleppey to the proposed canal.

Both the Members entreated the Dewan to visit the taluk at the earliest opportunity and see for himself the real difficulties of the people for want of easy communications and they trusted that, if only he did so, the taluk was sure to be improved in the matter of communications in the nearest future.

Dewan's reply.—The canal already sanctioned will be done and the work will be begun this year. The canal is intended not only as a means of communication but also to help the cultivation of the cocoanut gardens in the taluk. An estimate of five and odd lakhs of rupees has been sanctioned for the canal and a sum of Rs. 20,000 has been provided for the work in the budget for 1088.

83. The need for repairing and maintaining certain village roads and bridges in the Vaikom taluk.

Mr. P. C. Krishna Pillai (Member, Vaikom taluk) said that certain portions of the existing village roads from Thalayolaparampu to Piravam would be under water during the rainy season. There was much traffic on the line owing to the existence of important markets at Thalayolaparampu and Piravam. During the rainy season, the people going to Moovattupuzha had to go by the Ettumanur road, which was circuitous. He therefore prayed that the village road should be made cartable.

He also said that the condition of the existing village road from Vetchur to Vaikom was similar to the abovesaid village road. There was a bridge on the way, which was on

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a higher level, and, for a furlong distance on either side of it, the road required to be completely repaired. That portion would be under water for two or three months in the year. He therefore prayed that the road should be made cartable.

The Member said that there were formerly bridges across the Vallayil thodu and the Maranveettil thodu. They were no longer in existence now, and without them the people generally, and the school boys in particular, underwent much difficulty during the monsoons, as the current there would then be very strong. He requested that a bridge should be constructed over each of the two canals.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

84. The desirability of the Government maintaining certain irrigation canals in the Vaikom taluk.

Mr. P. C. Krishna Pillai (Member, Vaikom taluk) said that the wet lands in the eastern *pakuthies* of the Vaikom taluk used to yield unfailing crops till the construction of the Valianapuzha bund. Since then, during the monsoons, the water always rushed down the Minachil and the Moovattupuzha rivers, and finding no proper out-let into the Vembanad lake, flooded those wet lands, and the whole cultivation therefore failed. In 1087 the loss thus caused was roughly estimated at 5 lakhs of rupees in both the crops together. He therefore requested that the Vallayil thodu, Anchumana thodu and the Kaniyan thodu should be deepened and widened so as to help the easy flow of the monsoon floods. He further prayed that, as in South Travancore, a remission of the land-tax might be allowed whenever the crops failed by submergence in floods.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

85. The need for the opening of a canal from the Vempalli thodu.

Mr. Parameswaren Pillai (Member, Ettumanur taluk) narrated the difficulties of the ryots for want of facilities for *punja* cultivation. A small stream called Vempalli thodu flowing into the Minachil river destroyed the crops over 1,500 acres of paddy fields every year on both sides of it by unusual floods; at the same time, want of sufficient water was being felt by the people of the western *pakuthies* of the taluk. The Member therefore prayed that a canal might be opened from the Vempalli thodu in a westerly direction, through Kanakari *chira*, for about three-quarters of a mile in length, and he said that it would meet the difficulties complained of completely.

The Member then presented a memorial signed by the inhabitants of the Ettumanur taluk and of the Vaikom and Vetchur proverthies in the Vaikom taluk containing the above request.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

86. The need or repairing and maintaining certain roads in the Ettumanur taluk.

Mr. Parameswaren Pillai (Member, Ettumanur taluk) said that cartable roads were very rare in the taluk and he requested that the following village roads be repaired and maintained by the Government :—

(1) the road, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, constructed by the inhabitants, branching off between the 1st and 2nd milestones on

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